



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mount Rogers NRA
George Washington and
Jefferson National Forest

3714 Highway 16
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-5196

File Code: 1950

Date: October 19, 2020

Dear Friends of the Mount Rogers NRA,

The USDA Forest Service is seeking public comment as to any new or additional information concerning a prescribed burn project on Horse Heaven Mountain and Hurricane Mountain in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area in Wythe and Grayson Counties, VA. The purpose of this project is to shift the current conditions and fire return interval back into its historic range.

This project was authorized in a Decision Memo signed in February of 2004. It was determined at that time that the proposed action would have no significant effects and there were no extraordinary circumstances that warranted analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement. The proposal was categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under 36 CFR 220.6(d):

Category 6: Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction. 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)

We welcome your involvement and encourage your comments on this proposal. Comments received, including names and contact information of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Written comments concerning this proposal will be accepted through Monday, November 2nd, 2020. Comments may be submitted through the Horse Heaven Prescribed Burn Project website via the web form:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=58995>

This web form can also be accessed from the project website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58995>

On the right side, you can select "Comment/Object on Project."



Written comments can also be submitted hardcopy to:

USDA Forest Service
ATTN: Barry Garten, Area Ranger
3714 Highway 16
Marion, VA 24354

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx).

Please share any specific concerns that you feel need to be considered within the context of this proposed action. Make your comments as concise as you can and address the proposed action specifically. State "Horse Heaven Prescribed Burn" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

If you have questions about this proposal please contact Chris Brown at (540) 953-3570, or by email at christopherjbrown@fs.fed.us. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Barry K. Garten*

BARRY K. GARTEN
Area Ranger

